REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 1, 2002, has been carefully considered together with each of the references cited therein. The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. The amendments herein are fully supported by the Application as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, reconsideration of the present Application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

CLAIM STATUS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this Application. Claims 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.14(b) as being drawn to a non-elected species.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification in various places to overcome the objections recited in the Office Action. Claims 1, 7, 10, have been amended to overcome a 35 USC § 112, second paragraph rejection. New claims 16-21 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Thus the claims at issue include claims 1-6, 9, 10, and 14-21.

Applicants note in paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Office's statement that the elected ultimate species of invention, an electrophotographic toner or developer comprising distearyldimethyl ammonium bentonite is allowable over the prior art of record.

Objections to the Disclosure

The Office states "that the specification on page 13, line 6, identifies the groups $A1^{\alpha}$ and $A3^{\alpha}$ as $-COO^{\alpha}$, SO_3^{α}, $-OSO_3^{\alpha}-$, $-COS^{\alpha}$, or $-CS_2^{\alpha}$. However, formulas (a) through (j) do not comprise said groups, but comprise the groups $A1^{-}$ and $A3^{-}$." The specification has been amended to change the groups $A1^{\alpha}$ and $A3^{\alpha}$ to $A1^{-}$ and $A3^{-}$, and the particular radicals have been changed likewise.

The Office requires Applicants to capitalize the trademarks wherever th y appear in the specification. Applicants have amended the specification in various places to capitalize the trademarks.

The Office objects to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. In claim 1, the Office states, the recitation "a method of imparting, controlling or improving the charge of . . . lacks antecedent basis in the specification." The specification has been amended to include the subject phrase in the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 22.

The Office states that the recitation "electret fiber material" lacks antecedent basis in this specification. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to delete word "fiber."

The Office states that in claim 8, the recitation "triazacyclononanium or tetraaza-cyclododecanium" lacks antecedent basis in the specification. The paragraph of page 14, line 5 has been amended to include the subject phrase.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the specification have been overcome.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office states that claim 1 is indefinite for use of the phase "method . . . comprising the step of adding a salt-like structured silicate. . . to an electrostatic separation process" because it is not clear what is being electrostatically separated. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "an electrostatic separation of a polymer process".

The Office finds claim 5 indefinite due to the phrase "X has the meaning of Y and -CO-CH_2-CO-". The subject phrase has been amended replacing the word "and" with the word "or." The Office also finds the phase "heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O, S, or a combination thereof" as indefinite for improper Markush language. The subject phase has been amended to recite proper Markush language.

Also with respect to claim 5, the Office finds the phase "$A1^{\alpha}$ and $A3^{\alpha}$ represent $-COO^{\alpha}$, SO_3^{α}, $-OSO_3^{\alpha}-$, $-COS^{\alpha}$, or $-CS_2^{\alpha}$" as indefinite. By this Amendment, all subject groups have been amended, replacing the alpha designation with the negative designation.

The Office is of the position that the phrase "it being possible for 2-8 rings to be fused" in claim 7 is indefinite. Applicants have deleted the subject phrase from the claim 7.

Claim 10 is found indefinite by the Office for use of improper Markush language. Claim 10 has been amended to reflect proper Markush language.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully contended that the 35 USC § 112, second paragraph rejections have been overcome.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-6, 9,10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,807,629 (Elspass), as evidenced by US 5,385,776 (Maxfield). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office takes the position that Elspass discloses a dried powder comprising a binder resin and layered material, BENTONE-34, a dialkylammonium montmorillonite, and further that Elspass adds BENTONE-34 to the binder resin dissolved in a solvent. The Office is also of the position that Maxfield identifies BENTONE-34 as a montmorillonite whose native interlayer cations were ion-exchanged for dimethyldioctadecyl-ammonium cation. The Offices then concludes:

> Elspass does not disclose that the addition of BENTONE-34 imparts, controls, or improves the charge of the powder as recited in instant claim 1. However, as discussed the above, BENTONE-34 meets the "salt like structured silicate" limitation recited in the instant claims. Accordingly, it is reasonable to presume Elspass's addition of BENTONE-34 has the effects cited in instant claim 1. The burden is on applicants to prove otherwise. In re Fitzgerald, 205 USPQ 594 (CCPA 1980).

It is Applicants' respectful position that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of anticipation of the instant claims over Elspass as evidenced by

Maxfield. As clearly noted in § 2131 of the MPEP, to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. The Elspass and Maxfield references do not disclose each and every element of independent claims 1 and 14.

Independent claim 1 is directed to method for imparting, controlling or improving the charge of an electrophotographic toner and developer, an electret material or in an electrostatic separation of a polymer process which comprises adding a salt like structured silicate having the characteristics cited in claim 1 to a binder of the electrophotographic toner or developer or electret material or to an electrostatic separation process.

Neither Elspass nor Maxfield disclose the addition of a salt like structured silicate to a binder of an electrophotographic toner or developer or of an electret material or to an electrostatic separation of a polymer process. Thus, neither reference teaches every element of this claim. Similarly, independent claim 14 is directed to electrophotographic toner. Neither Elspass or Maxfield disclose an electrophotographic toner.

Specifically, the composite advanced by Elspass, as disclosed in column 3, lines 29-36 is used in the formation of tire liners, inner tubes, bladders and other substantially air impermeable membranes. With respect to Maxfield, an examination of column 12, lines 10-44 reveals that the nanocomposite compositions are useful in conventional shaping processes and molded articles components for sports equipment, bottles, the electrical and electronics industries, car components, circuits, fibers and semi-finished products, extruded films and film laminates. Neither of these references teach, disclose, or suggest that which is advanced in independent claim 1 and 14 of the instant application, and therefore, it is courteously submitted that Applicants' invention, as defined by these claims, is not anticipated thereby.

Claims 1-11, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,404,270 (Higashida). This rejection is respectfully overcome.

The Office is of the position that Higashida discloses adding mica as a charge control agent to the binder resin of a toner. The Office is further of the position

Higashida discloses that the mica can be muscovite, phlogopite, lepidolit , and that such disclosure meets the "salt-like structured silicate" limitation recited in instant claims 1-11, 14, and 15.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the subject claims to remove reference to the compounds employed by Higashida. Furthermore, it is Applicants respectful position, that an ordinary artisan, with knowledge of Higashida, would not be motivated to alter the disclosed toner to include the compounds recited in Applicants' amended claims. Higashida provides no motivation for the ordinary artisan to alter the compound to arrive at the invention as claimed by Applicants.

For all of these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 USC § 102 rejections have been overcome.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elspass, as evidenced by Maxfield.

For all the reasons advanced with respect to the § 102 rejection of claim 14, which claim 15 depends from, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is not made obvious by any combination of Elspass as evidenced by Maxfield, and for this reason, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current Amendment. The attached document is entitled "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

As the total number of claims does not exceed the number of claims originally paid for, no fee is believed due. However if an additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 03-2060.

Attorney's Docket: 1999DE132
Serial No.: 09/722,760
Art Unit: 1753

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charg deposit account 03-2060 $186.00 for the independent claims in excess of three (additional two independent claims) and one claim in excess of twenty claims. The Commissioner is also authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 03-2060.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration of it is requested. If the Examiner disagrees, she is requested to contact the attorney for Applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney's Docket: 1999DE132
Serial No.: 09/722,760
Art Unit: 1753

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Michel et al.
Serial No.: 09/722,760
Filed: 11/27/2000
For: Use of Salt-Like Structured Silicas as Control Agents

Docket: 1999DE132
Group Art Unit: 1753
Examiner: Dote, Janis L.

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning on page 5, line 22 has been amended as follows:

--Surprisingly, it has now been found that salt-like structured silicates described below have advantageous charge control properties and high heat stabilities, the charge control property being lost neither by combination with carbon black nor with other coloring agents. The compounds are moreover readily compatible with the customary toner, powder coating and electret binders and can easily be dispersed. The resin-carrier systems which usually have a negative control can furthermore also be effectively charged positively. Thus, the invention, in one form, provides a method of imparting, controlling or improving the charge of an electrophotographic toner or developer, of a powder coating, of an electret material or in an electrostatic separation process.--

The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 28 and ending on page 9, line 4 has been amended as follows:

-- Trade names for structured silicates which can be employed for the purposes of the invention are:

[®Tonsil, ®Granosil, ®Südflock, ®Copisil, ®Opazil, ®Printosil, ®Lightcoat, ®Jetsil, ®Geko, ®Ecosil, ®Tixoton, ®Bentonil, ®Montigel, ®Calcigel, ®Clarit, ®Laundrosil, ®Bionit, ®Edasil, ®Agriben, ®Tixogel, ®Optibent, ®Optigel, ®Airsec, ®Albion Kaolin, ®Biokat's, ®Container Dri, ®Desi Pak, ®Ivyblock, ®Montigel, ®Detbuild, ®Bleach, ®Volclay, ®Bentobrite, ®Polargel and ®Suspengel] TONSIL®.

GRANOSIL®, SUDFLOCK®, COPISIL®, OPAZIL®, PRINTOSIL®, LIGHTCOAT®, JETSIL®, GEKO®, ECOSIL®, TIXOTON®, BENTONIL®, MONTIGEL®, CALCIGEL®, CLARIT®, LAUNDROSIL®, BIONIT®, EDASIL®, AGRIBEN®, TIXOGEL®, OPTIBENT®, OPTIGEL®, AIRSEC®, ALBION® kaolin, BIOKAT'S®, CONTAINER DRI®, DESI PAK®, IVYBLOCK®, MONTIGEL®, DETBUILD®, BLEACH®, VOLCLAY®, BENTOBRITE®, POLARGEL®, AND SUSPENGEL®.

The paragraph of page 13, line 6 has been amended as follows:

--$A_1[^{\circ}]^{=}$ and $A_3[^{\circ}]^{=}$ represent $-COO[^{\circ}]^{=}$, $-SO_3[^{\circ}]^{=}$, $-OSO_3[^{\circ}]^{=}$, $-SO_2[^{\circ}]^{=}$, $-COS[^{\circ}]^{=}$ or $-CS_2[^{\circ}]^{=}$;--

The paragraph of page 14, line 5 has been amended as follows:

--Heterocyclic ammonium ions which are furthermore preferred are aliphatic or aromatic 5- to 12-membered heterocyclic radicals with 1, 2, 3 or 4 N, O and/or S atoms belonging to rings, it being possible for 2 to 8 rings to be fused, in particular pyridinium, pyridazinium, pyrimidinium, pyrazinium, purinium, tetraazaporphyrinium, piperidinium, morpholinium, tetrazonium triazacyclononanium or tetraaza-cyclododecanium.--

The paragraph of page 29, line 26 has been amended as follows:

--Dyestuffs and pigments with fluorescent properties, such as [®Luminole] LUMINOLE® (Riedel-de Haen) can also be employed, for example to prepare falsification-proof toners.--

The paragraph of page 34, line 23 has been amended as follows:

--1 part of the compound from Preparation Example 1 is incorporated homogeneously into 99 parts of a toner binder (styrene/acrylate copolymer 60:40 [®Dialec] DIALEC® S 309) in the course of 30 minutes by means of a kneader. The mixture is subsequently ground on a laboratory universal mill and then classified on

a centrifugal sifter. The desired particle fraction (4 to 25 µm) is activated with a carrier which comprises magnetite particles of size 50 to 200 µm coated with styrene/methacrylate copolymer (90:10).--

The paragraph of page 35, line 1 has been amended as follows:

-- The procedure is as in Use Example 1, a polyester resin based on bisphenol A ([®Almacryl] ALMACRYL® T 500) being used instead of the styrene/acrylate copolymer and ferrite particles of size 50 – 200 µm coated with silicone being used as the carrier.--

IN THE CLAIMS

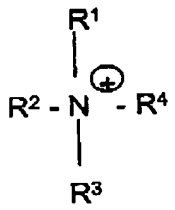
Please amend claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10, 14 and 15 as follows:

1) (Amended) A method of imparting, [controling] controlling or improving the charge of an electrophotographic toner or developer[, of a powder coating, of] an electret material or in an electrostatic [searation] separation of a polymer process, comprising the step of adding a salt-like structured silicate in which the cation is H_4^+, H_3O^+, [an alkali metal,] alkaline earth metal, earth metal or transition metal ion or a low molecular weight organic cation or a combination thereof and the anion is an island, cyclic, group, chain, ribbon, laminar or matrix silicate or a combination thereof to a binder of an electrophotographic toner or developer or of [a powder coating, to] an electret [fiber] material or to an electrostatic separation of a polymer process.

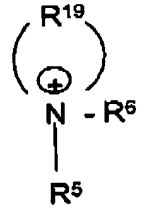
2) (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the silicate is an anion selected from the group consisting of montmorillonite, bentonite, hectorite, kaolinite, serpentine, talc, pyrophyllite, [mica, phlogopite, biotite, muscovite,] paragonite, vermiculite, beidellite, xantophyllite, margarite, feldspar, zeolite, wollastonite, actinolite, amosite, crocidolite, sillimanite, nontronite, smectite, sepiolite, saponite, faujasite, permutite and sasil.

3) (Amended) The method as claim d in claim 1, wherein the cation is H_3O^+, $[Li^+,]$ Na^+, $[K^+,]$ Rb^+, Cs^+, Be^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Sr^{2+}, Ba^{2+}, Al^{3+}, TiO^{2+}, ZrO^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Fe^{2+}, Fe^{3+}, Sn^{2+}, Sn^{4+}, Pb^{2+}, Pb^{4+}, Cr^{3+}, Mn^{4+}, Mn^{2+}, Co^{2+}, Co^{3+}, Cu^{2+}, Sc^{3+}, Ti^{4+}, Zr^{4+}, V^{5+}, Y^{3+}, Ni^{2+}, Mo^{6+} or W^{6+}.

5) (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the ammonium ion has one of the formulae (a) - (j)



(a)



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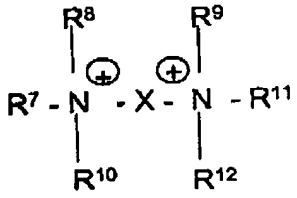

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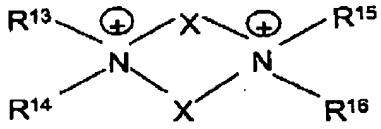

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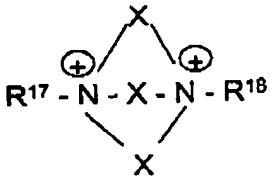

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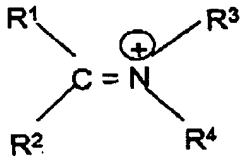

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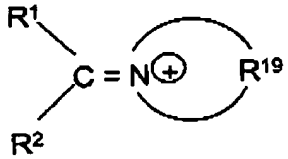

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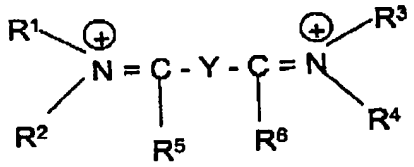

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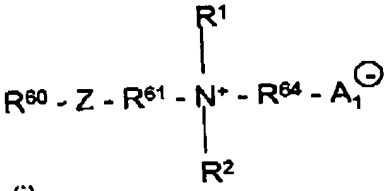
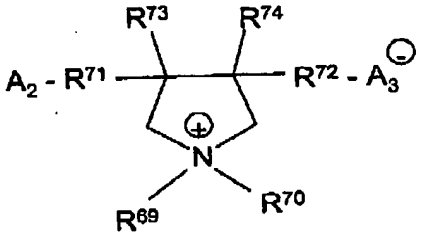


(i)

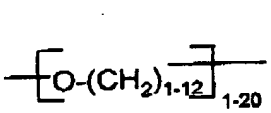


(j)

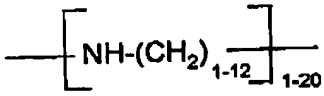
in which

R^1 to R^{18} are identical or different and represent hydrogen, CN, $(CH_2)_{1-18}CN$, halogen, branched or unbranched C_1-C_{32}-alkyl, mono- or polyunsaturated C_2-C_{32}-alkenyl, C_1-C_{22}-alkoxy, C_1-C_{22}-hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_{22}-halogenoalkyl, C_2-C_{22}-halogenoalkenyl, C_1-C_{22}-aminoalkyl, (C_1-C_{12})-trialkyl-ammonium-(C_1-C_{22})-alkyl; (C_1-C_{22})-alkylene-(C=O)O-(C_1-C_{32})alkyl, (C_1-C_{22})-alkylene-(C=O)O-aryl, (C_1-C_{22})-alkylene-(C=O)NH-(C_1-C_{32})alkyl, (C_1-C_{22})-alkylene-(C=O)NH-aryl, (C_1-C_{22})-alkylene-O(CO)-(C_1-C_{32})alkyl, (C_1-C_{22})-alkylene-O(CO)aryl, (C_1-C_{22})-alkylene-NH(C=O)-(C_1-C_{32})alkyl, (C_1-C_{22})-alkylene-NHCO-aryl,

wherein



or



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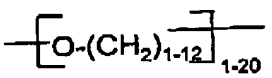
are optionally inserted into the acid ester or acid amide bonds;

$[(C_1$-$C_{12})$-alkylene-O-$]_{1-100}$-H; aryl, (C_1-C_{18})-alkylenearyl; -(O-SiR'$_2$)$_{1-32}$-O-SiR'$_3$, in which R' has the meaning C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or C_1-C_{12}-alkoxy; heterocyclyl, C_1-C_{18}-alkylene-heterocyclyl, wherein the aryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally mono- or polysubstituted on carbon atoms or heteroatoms by C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, C_1-C_4-

alkenyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, hydroxy-(C_1-C_4)alkyl, amino-(C_1-C_4)alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylimino, carboxyl, hydroxyl, amino, nitro, cyano, halogen, C_1-C_{12}-acyl, C_1-C_4-halogenoalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyloxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonylimino, C_6-C_{10}-arylcarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylaminosulfonyl, phenyl, naphthyl, or heteroaryl.;

R^{19} represents C_4-C_{11}-alkylene, $-(C_2H_4-O-)_{1-17}-(CH_2)_{1-2}-$, $-(C_2H_4-NR-)_{1-17}-(CH_2)_{1-2}-$, in which R is hydrogen or C_1-C_{12}-alkyl;
X has the meaning of Y [and] or $-CO-CH_2-CO-$,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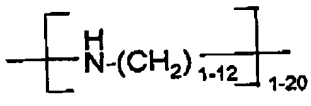
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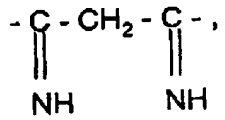
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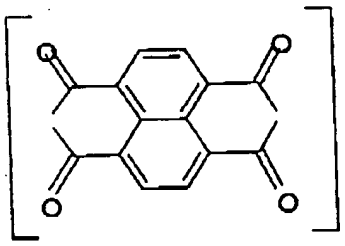
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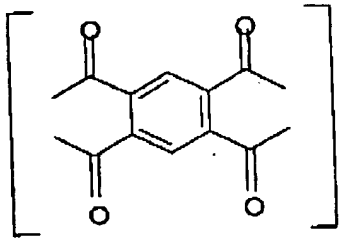
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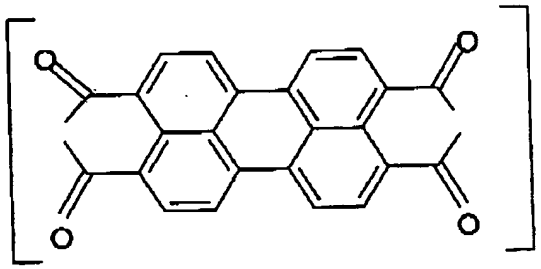
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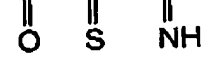
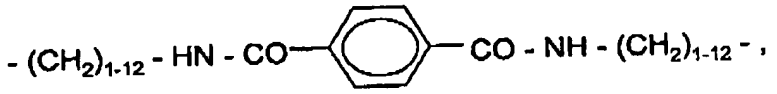
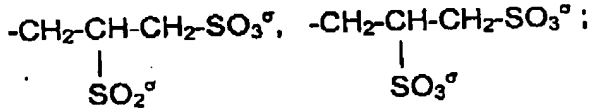
Y has the meaning 
, $-(CH_2)_{1-18}-$,



or o-, p-, m-(C_6-C_{14})-arylene or (C_4-C_{14})-heteroarylene with 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S [or] and a combination thereof;

R^{60} represents C_1-C_{32}-acyl, C_1-C_{22}-alkyl, C_2-C_{22}-alkenyl, C_1-C_{18}-alkylene-C_6-C_{10}-aryl, C_1-C_{22}-alkylene-heterocyclyl, C_6-C_{10}-aryl or (C_4-C_{14})-heteroaryl with 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S, [or] and a combination thereof;
R^{61} and R^{64} represent -$(CH_2)_{1-18}$-, C_1-C_{12}-alkylene-C_6-C_{10}-arylene, C_6-C_{10}-arylene, C_0-C_{12}-alkylene-heterocyclyl;
Z represents -NH- or -O- ;
$A_1[^{\oplus}]^-$ and $A_3[^{\oplus}]^-$ represent -$COO[^{\oplus}]^-$, -$SO_3[^{\oplus}]^-$, -$OSO_3[^{\oplus}]^-$, -$SO_2[^{\oplus}]^-$, -$COS[^{\oplus}]^-$ or -$CS_2[^{\oplus}]^-$;
A_2 represents -SO_2Na, -SO_3Na, -SO_2H, -SO_3H or hydrogen;
R^{69} and R^{70} independently of one another represent hydrogen, C_1-C_{32}-alkyl, in which the alkyl chain optionally contain one or more of the groups -NH-CO-, -CO-NH-, -CO-O- or -O-CO-; C_1-C_{18}-alkylene-aryl, C_0-C_{18}-alkylene-heterocyclyl, C_1-C_{18}-hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_{18}-halogenoalkyl, aryl, -$(CH_2)_3$-$SO_3^{\ominus}$,



R^{71} and R^{72} represent $-(CH_2)_{1-12}-$; and
R^{73} and R^{74} represent hydrogen or C_1-C_{22}-alkyl.

7) (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the ammonium ion is an aliphatic or aromatic 5- to 12-membered heterocyclic radical with 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, or a combination thereof, belonging to the rings[, it being possible for 2 to 8 rings to be fused].

10) (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of Al, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, TiO, VO, Cr, V, Ti, Zr, Sc, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn and ZrO[, and the metal complex optionally contains one or more further ligands].

14) (Amended) An electrophotographic toner[, powder or powder coating] comprising 30 to 99.99% by weight of a binder, 0.01 to 50% by weight, of at least one salt of ionic structured silicates in which the cation is NH_4^+, H_3O^+, [an alkali metal,] alkaline earth metal, earth metal or transition metal ion or a low molecular weight organic cation or a combination thereof and the anion is an island, cyclic, group, chain, ribbon, laminar or matrix silicate or a combination thereof,[and optionally 0.001 to 50% by weight, of a coloring agent, in each case] based on the total weight of the electrophotographic toner[, powder or powder coating].

15) (Amended) An electrophotographic toner[, powder or powder coating] as claimed in [clam] claim 14, comprising 40 to 99.5% by weight of a binder, 0.05 to 20% by weight of at least one salt of ionic structured silicates in which the cation is NH_4^+, H_3O^+, [an alkali metal,] alkaline earth metal, earth metal or transition metal ion or a low molecular weight organic cation or a combination thereof and the anion is an island, cyclic, group, chain, ribbon, laminar or matrix silicate or a combination thereof, [and optionally 0.05 to 20% by weight of a coloring agent, in each case]

based on the total weight of the lectrophotographic toner[, powder or powd r coating].

Please add new claims 16- 21 as follows:

16. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the ammonium ion is an aliphatic or aromatic 5- to 12-membered heterocyclic radical with 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, or a combination thereof, belonging to the rings, wherein 2 to 8 rings are fused.

17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of Al, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, TiO, VO, Cr, V, Ti, Zr, Sc, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn and ZrO, and the metal complex contains one or more further ligands.

18. (New) A method of imparting, controlling or improving the charge of an electrophotographic toner or developer, of a powder coating, of an electret material or in an electrostatic separation of a polymer process, comprising the steps of adding a salt-like structured silicate in which the cation is NH_4^+, H_3O^+, an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, earth metal or transition metal ion or a low molecular weight organic cation or a combination thereof and the anion is an island, cyclic, group, chain, ribbon, laminar or matrix silicate or a combination thereof to a binder of an electrophotographic toner or developer or of a powder coating, to an electret material or to an electrostatic separation of a polymer process to form a mixture, and electrostatically charging the mixture.

19. (New) An electrophotographic toner or developer comprising distearyldimethyl ammonium and bentonite.

20. (New) The electrophotographic toner as claimed in claim 14, further comprising 0.001 to 50% by weight, of a coloring agent, based on the total weight of the electrophotographic toner.

21. (New) A composition comprising 30 to 99.99% by weight of a binder, 0.01 to 50% by weight, of at least one salt of ionic structured silicates in which the cation is NH_4^+, H_3O^+, alkaline earth metal, earth metal or transition metal ion or a low molecular weight organic cation or a combination thereof and the anion is an island, cyclic, group, chain, ribbon, laminar or matrix silicate or a combination thereof, based on the total weight of the composition, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of an electrophotographic developer, an electret material or an electrostatically separated polymer.